

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the final Office Action of March 18, 2005 (hereinafter "Final Action"). Applicants especially appreciate the indication that Claims 7, 10, and 11. In response, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 13 to incorporate recitations similar to those in allowable Claim 7. Applicants also appreciate the Examiner pointing out various informalities in the Title, Specification, and Drawings. Applicants have made several amendments to the application to correct these informalities. Favorable reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested for at least the reasons discussed hereafter.

Objections to the Title, Specification, and Drawings

The Title has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggested title. The Specification is objected to because of several informalities. Applicants have amended the Specification to correct these informalities.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings stand objected to because of missing reference characters. In response, Applicants submit herewith amended Figure 12 in which reference numeral 119 has been changed to 117 and amended Figure 17 in which reference numeral 117 has been added to the unnumbered block near the bottom of the figure. With regard to the other drawing objections, Objects 27-30 in Figs. 4-6 are described in Paragraph 50. The pictorial representation of the objects has been simplified to block diagrams, highlighting the links between them rather than the objects themselves. Objects 34-37 in Fig. 7 are described in Paragraph 61 and 62. The pictorial representations of the objects have been simplified to block diagrams, highlighting the links between them rather than the objects themselves. Objects 50-52 in Fig. 8 are described in Paragraph 71. The objects mentioned have been simplified to block form, for ease of communication. Objects 68-70 in Fig. 9 are described in Paragraph 77. The objects mentioned have been simplified to block form, for ease of communication. Objects 86-88 in Fig. 10 are

described in Paragraph 79. The objects mentioned have been simplified to block form, for ease of communication. Objects 101-106 and 108 in Fig. 11 are described in Paragraphs 104-106. A schematic diagram has been used showing the objects and the communication links. A schematic diagram has been used, over more detailed means of representation, because of the resulting ease of communication. Objects 112, 114, 115, and 121 in Fig. 12 are described in Paragraphs 109-111. A schematic diagram has been used showing the objects and the communication links. A schematic diagram has been used, over more detailed means of representation, because of the resulting ease of communication. Objects 130 and various unnumbered blocks in Fig. 14 are described in Paragraph 116. A schematic diagram has been used showing the objects and the communication links. A schematic diagram has been used, over more detailed means of representation, because of the resulting ease of communication. Objects 160-173 in Fig. 17 are actions as described in Paragraph 123-127. To represent such actions and the consequences involved, a flow chart, like the one shown in Fig. 17, is the most effective means.

Independent Claims 1 and 13 are Patentable

The Office Action indicates that Claim 7 recites patentable subject matter. Accordingly, to advance prosecution and to facilitate an early allowance of the present application, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 13 to incorporate recitations similar to those of dependent Claim 7. Dependent Claim 6, on which Claim 7 depended, has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 13 are patentable and that dependent Claims 2 - 5, 7 - 12, and 14 are patentable at least per the patentability of independent Claims 1 and 13.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-entitled application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this

In re: Jacobs et al.
Serial No.: 10/693,611
Filed: October 24, 2003
Page 13 of 13

application, as amended, is respectfully requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

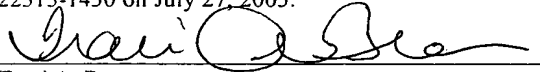


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